

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S198**

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TO:	The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Trey Kannaday		
DATE:	April 10, 2007	SBD:	2007314

AUTHOR:	Senator Ritchie	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	16-17-420
SUBJECT:	Disturbing Schools Offense - Misdemeanor		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

See Below

BILL SUMMARY:

The Bill would further specify the types of conduct that constitute the offense of disturbing schools and provides for intervention by school officials prior to referring some cases to court.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Juvenile Justice

The Department indicates that this Bill would have no impact on the General Fund of the State or Federal and/or Other Funds, as it would primarily decrease case loads at the county level to a more manageable level, improving capacity to assess, manage and supervise more serious offenders.

Department of Education

The Department reports that for FY 2004-05, 9,460 incidents of disturbing schools were reported and approximately 2,800 of those cases were referred to a solicitor. There were 2,726 cases referred to solicitors during FY 2005-06. Section 16-17-420 (C) of the Bill requires school districts to intervene before referring these cases to court by notifying the parent or guardian of a disruptive student, and by developing a written intervention plan for the student. The Department estimates that each district would require 3.00 FTEs to handle the additional workload. Of these, two would be counselors (one for middle schools and one for high schools). The other position would provide administrative support. Each district would need an additional \$132,396 in recurring personal service and fringe and \$10,000 for additional other operating expenses. In the first year, \$10,500 is needed for office set-up. Total cost to school districts is an estimated \$12,996,160 in the first year and \$12,103,660 annually thereafter.

The impact on the General Fund of the State is at the General Assembly's discretion. This initiative could be funded with State General Funds, Education Improvement Act funds, local funds and/or a combination of these funds. Should the General Assembly decide to provide funds through either the General Fund or the Education Improvement Act, the Department of Education indicates it would need 1.5 FTEs for oversight, monitoring and disbursement of funds. Total cost to SDE is estimated at \$105,250 the first year (\$90,000 is for salary and fringe, \$10,000 for annual operating, and \$5,250 for office set-up) and \$100,000 annually thereafter.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

The impact on local governments is not anticipated to be significant.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "H" and a distinct "Bell" at the end.

Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget